

"I started to the basement to attend to the fire in the furnace. On the stairs I met three little girls, who said there was smoke in the cellar. I hurried down I saw the fire under the front stairway."

"What caused it I have not the slightest idea. There was no rubbish there, though there may have been some wires under the stairs that I did not know of. The wires, I always believed, ran into the building through the roof. When I saw the fire I at once ran and gave the alarm. Before I finished ringing the gong the flames were pouring from the cellar and I tried to save the children."

"They were in a panic when they saw the flames. I thought of my own little ones, but only for an instant, as there were so many others to look after. I did not get near the doors, but I do not think they were locked."

"The flames finally drove me out of the building, but how I got out I do not remember."

Hirter was almost crazed with pain from his burns and sorrow over the loss of his children. His dead children were Walter, aged 15, a pupil in the fifth grade; Helena, aged 13, in the sixth grade; and Edna, aged 8, in the second grade. Two other children, Werner, aged 12, in the fifth, and Ella, aged 5, in the first grade, escaped.

BOY'S STORY OF DISASTER.

Henry Skelley, 13 years old, a pupil of Miss Katherine Nier, who was burned to death, saved his life by jumping from the second story window after he had been rescued by his father.

"I was among the last that marched out of the room when the fire gong sounded," he said. "When I got half way down the stairs and saw the children piled up there at the bottom, I ran back up again. I met Miss Nier coming down. She must have been burned there on the stairs for fire was bursting out all around. I ran and opened one of the windows on the north side and jumped out. I did not know I had been burned until I got up and ran home."

The flesh of the boy's face and hands was badly scorched. Two other Skelley children escaped uninjured.

Katherine Dorn, the six-year-old daughter of Frank Dorn, who died heroic work in rescuing children from the jam at the foot of the rear stairs, was the first child to leave the schoolhouse after the fire broke out. She was a pupil of the first grade, taught by Miss Pearl Lyon. "I was near the door when I heard the gong and Miss Lyon told us to march the gong and walk into the hall. It was full of smoke. The doors were open and I ran out and went home."

Gretchen, Katherine Dorn's ten-year-old sister, was burned to death. Her body was identified by a patch on the heel of her shoe. Mrs. Dorn, lying on a couch at her home, was prostrated with grief. "Oh, my Gretchen, my Gretchen," she moaned, "if you had only jumped!"

Mrs. Sprung lives next door to the burned schoolhouse. As soon as the fire alarm sounded she looked and saw the fire coming from the front door of the building. Her first thought was of her child, Alice Sprung, aged 7. She hurried over to the building and saw the flames around the children piled up in the doorway. The woman hurried herself upon the men keeping the crowd away from the door, but they would not let her pass. The fire department came but did not carry a ladder long enough to reach the second story window.

When Mrs. Sprung saw that she ran to her home and brought a stepladder. She put it under a window and was ascending into the fire filled room when a fireman stopped her, but she fought to get up the ladder and "go," she panted. "My boy is dying in there and I want to go in with him!"

They led her home and left friends to guard her.

PARENTS SEE CHILDREN BURN.

The supreme horror of the disaster was that the fathers and mothers of many of the little victims stood before the doors and saw their children as the flames crept up on them. The rear door was massed to the top with white faces. Little hands stretched out supplicating, begging to be saved. Mothers fainted where they stood. Others tried to get to their dying children, but firemen and policemen held them back. Then the fire crept up through the mass and silenced the cries. Nothing could be done to save the children, though rescuers were at the doors many minutes before the fire reached the jam. In their wild panic the children had wedged themselves so tightly into the jam that the rescuers pulled the flesh from the arms, of some trying to draw them out.

The fire was discovered by little girls who were in the basement. They saw the flames eating up into the wood of the front stairway. They rushed through the basement and told Fred Hirter, the janitor, of the fire. He struck the school fire alarm gong. Miss Moran, principal of the school, supposed it was the regular practice fire drill. The teachers marshalled their charges in good order and started for the stairs. There was no panic at first and the children on the first floor passed out safely. They too, supposed it was only the regular practice until they came into the hall. Then they saw the smoke rising from the front stairs. They cast frightened glances at it, but maintained order.

Many of the children on the third floor were saved. The flames spread so quickly that by the time the children of the third floor had come into the hall the smoke and sparks were coming up the stairs in great puffs. Miss Laura Bodey, who had charge of the middle room on the third floor, kept her head and started the children down the stairs. When they reached the second floor the flames were rising. Miss Bodey called to the children to follow her. She led the way to the fire escape through a room on the second floor. Most of the children obeyed her and were saved. Some, however, broke away and fled down the stairs. They were caught in the death trap.

JAM ON REAR STAIRS.

Nearly all the children on the second floor perished. Their teachers led them to the stairs in the rear, for the front stairs were enveloped in flames. At the sight of the fire the children took fright also. They started pell mell down the stairs and into the narrow passage that led to the outside doors. The first few escaped. Some of those following tripped on the stairs and rolled to the bottom. Others behind them ran over the tangle, crowded into the passageway, fell over the prostrate bodies and made the confusion greater. Then the children commenced dropping over the banisters to get to the passage. Those who had fallen on the stairs began to get up and in an instant the entrance to the passage was blocked.

Not yet had the flames reached the passageway. At first the children wedged in the passageway were all standing, but as the others wedged from behind and they struggled to free themselves they fell forward upon their faces. Those behind clambered over the fallen, only to fall forward in turn. It kept up this way until the passage was blocked to within a foot of the

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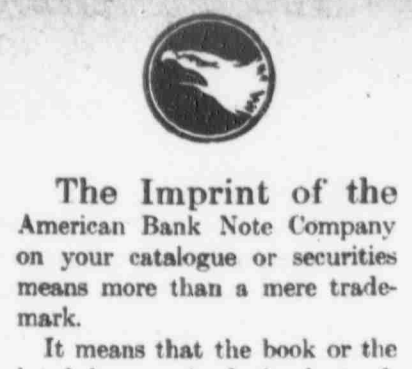
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American Bank Note Company,
86 Trinity Place, New York.
Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta, Pittsburg, St. Louis, San Francisco.

Only the faces of the children could be seen from the outside.

Behind that human barrier were scores of children crowded against the barrier in a moaning huddle.

Of the nine teachers in the burned school all escaped with their lives but two. Those who met death in the flames were Miss Katherine Weiler, 2217 East Eighty-first street, and Miss Grace Fluke, Orville avenue, Cleveland.

Miss Fluke was a teacher of a first grade class in the first floor. She was carried from the building still breathing and hurried to Glenview Hospital, where she died shortly before noon.

Miss Weiler taught a class on the second floor. She perished with many of her pupils. Her body was recovered at 1 o'clock.

How Miss Fluke died will probably never be known. One of her pupils who got down the fire escape and said he remembered seeing her trying to gather the children together as the flames burst through the doors leading to the hallway. Her room was the first to be reached by the fire coming from the basement, and there was scarcely an instant's warning. It is supposed Miss Fluke died trying to get her pupils to the fire escape. The flames must have caught her before she could have reached the window.

Miss Weiler died in the midst of her pupils. The teachers struggling at the rear entrance caught a glimpse of her standing among the mass of little ones on the stairway. She seemed to be begging them to go on and not to crowd. Then the flames drove her back. This was the last seen of the teacher. Death must have reached her within a few minutes.

Three child victims of the fire were taken to the Glenview Hospital. One died this afternoon and another will probably die, but the other has a bare chance for life.

Mildred Schmitt, 10 years old, was the first taken to the hospital. She was burned over her entire body. When the child was brought in she was conscious and, although suffering bitter pains, was very brave. Nurses dressed her burns. While they were at work she helped them. As the bandages were completed she died without uttering a word. Her mother fainted at the side of her cot.

Glenn Barber, 10 years old, was brought in soon after the fire. His head, neck, arms and feet were badly burned. His condition is serious.

TIME AT \$40,000 A YEAR.

Young Mr. Dayton Presents His Bill to Loan Company Receiver.

There was another hearing yesterday before Thomas F. Conway as referee in the matter of the accounts of Charles M. Preston, receiver for the New York Building Loan Banking Company. The hearing was held in Mr. Conway's office in the Mutual Life Building. Most of the day was devoted to inquiry into the bills submitted by Charles W. Dayton, Jr., son of Supreme Court Justice Dayton, who has acted as counsel for the receiver since his father went on the bench, January 1, 1907. Young Dayton's bill is for \$30,000 for services rendered between January 1, 1907, and September 13, 1907.

Mr. Dayton read a long statement about his bill. It showed that he had spent practically every day, including some Sundays and holidays, from 9 until 5 on the affairs of the company. He read off a number of suits which he said he had managed; he admitted most of these suits had been begun by his father and that his father had been paid for his services in them. The referee directed him to amend his statement to show the condition of these various suits on January 1, 1907, when he took them up.

In reply to a question Mr. Dayton said he had not prepared individual charges for each suit but had lumped them together at \$40,000, figuring his time, as had his father, at \$40,000 a year.

Mr. Dayton, Jr., is a slight mustached young man, apparently about 30 years old. The referee told him the law required him to furnish an itemized bill, which he will do on March 11.

The check was one of six blank checks which have been missing since last fall. It is the custom of the City Paymaster's office to send blank checks, upon proper requisition, to the various city departments for those departments to fill out and return for proper signature. Last fall six such checks were sent to the Department of Taxes and Assessment were lost, mislaid or stolen; anyway they disappeared. The National City Bank was of course duly notified of the fact, together with the acknowledgment numbers of the checks, so that an eye might be kept open for their appearance. The first one to discover itself was the one presented at Ranken's.

Among the Oceanic passengers were William Barclay Parsons, Charles H. Allen, Dean Alvord, Sir Hubert Jerningham, Louis M. Mowbray, Capt. C. W. E. de Moyness, Robert S. Dennison and Vincent W. Yorke.

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"I made a mistake," she said. "I didn't see the revolver."

"And you didn't fire the shots?" said Mr. Garvan gently.

"No, sir," she said.

"And your father was holding Gerntinger in his arms?"

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EIGHT FIRES IN THE BRONX.

Boy Seen Running Away Is Arrested as a Firebug.

Anthony Barber, a fifteen-year-old boy who lives at 330 Brook avenue, The Bronx, was arrested yesterday afternoon, suspected by Assistant Fire Marshal McCarthy and the police of having something to do with setting a dozen or more fires in The Bronx within the last few days. The boy was caught by Detective Walsh of the Alexander avenue station just as he was turning in an alarm.

He was identified by several persons as having been seen running away from four of the eight fires that occurred in one precinct yesterday, and was also picked out of a dozen boys as one who was seen coming out of an empty tenement house at Wendover and Third avenues last Friday just before it was set on fire. There were three other fires in Wendover avenue on that day.

The fire in The Bronx yesterday, all of which looked suspicious, began at 443 Willis avenue at 9:15 A. M. This fire was started in the basement of a five-story tenement house and was the fifth fire in that house within a few months. In the course of the fire three other tenement houses were set on fire: 353 East 142d street, 282 Brook avenue, 79 East 137th street, 135th street and Third avenue, 441 East 134th street, 135 Willis avenue and 178 Brook avenue.

These fires were started in the cellar and discovered and put out before much damage was done.

At 5:30 o'clock somebody set fire to a baby carriage in the house at 353 East 142d street, which had been on fire earlier in the day. The carriage burned up.

Young Barber, who was charged with arson, is a stepson of Nathan Barber, a crockery merchant. The elder Barber said that he gave the boy 10 cents yesterday morning, and after marking a list of places that had advertised for a boy, sent him out to find work. The boy's story was so confused that the police concluded that he was feeble-minded.

ROSS WINANS MAY CUT OFF SON.

Angry at Marriage of Young Man to a Spanish Actress in Paris.

BALTIMORE, March 4.—A statement was given to-day on behalf of Ross Winans of this city in regard to the recent marriage of his son in Paris. Gen. F. C. Latrobe, counsel for Mr. Winans, spoke for him. He said:

"Mr. Ross Winans authorizes me to say that his son, Mr. Thomas Winans, has married without his consent but is now living in Paris on an allowance paid by his father."

The trouble between the father and son is said to have dated from the time of the death of Mrs. Ross Winans. When Mr. Winans returned to America with the bodies of his wife and another son several months ago Thomas Winans was to have come with him. The steamer on which they were to sail was scheduled to leave Liverpool very early in the morning and Ross Winans and his son went on board the night before.

When Ross Winans awoke the next morning the steamer was well down the Irish Sea. Mr. Winans sent for his son and it was then found that the steamer had not been occupied by the young man having left the ship during the night. Mr. Winans brought the bodies of his wife and son to Baltimore and they were buried in Greenmount Cemetery.

A little while after the father and son separated in this way at Liverpool, the son, going directly to Paris, married a Spanish actress in spite of the most strenuous objections on the part of his father. So great is said to have been Ross Winans' anger that it is said he then decided to leave his son to his fate and to others than his son, who would have inherited it under ordinary circumstances.

STOLEN CITY CHECK TURNS UP.

Was Blank When Stolen, Brought \$150 When It Was Cashed.

Among people who can go a long way on their faces without crawling there is one whose reappearance is awaited on Park row with mild expectation. He is \$150 ahead of the game, and he hopes to see him again down at Ranken's restaurant in lower Park row, opposite the Post Office.

He came in there a few days ago and the management did him the favor to cash a check of the city of New York for the above mentioned trifling sum. Mr. Ranken said last evening that he and his son knew the man when they saw him, that they had seen him before and hoped to see him again, but that really the check was cashed because it was a city check and appeared to be drawn in due and regular form.

When, however, Mr. Ranken presented the check at the office of City Paymaster Timmerman on Tuesday Mr. Timmerman regarded the piece of paper as he would a long lost, gently but firmly declined to pay it, and incidentally suggested to Mr. Ranken that "were well to know the identity of persons presenting city paymaster's checks for payment before cashing them."

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BLESSINGS FOR BORROWERS

GOOD TWO NAME PAPER HANDY AND A BANK TO DISCOUNT IT.

You Make Your Note and Mr. Stade Will Get You Another Man's in Exchange for It, and You Are Prepared to Try It on Your Bank, or if Need Be on His.

Wall Street has discovered a new benefactor of mankind. This one is C. E. Stade, head of C. E. Stade & Co., "investments, loans, commercial paper, 60-62 New street." His methods of disbursing benefits also are something new to the Street. They work about in this way:

Suppose you've borrowed all the money you can get from your bank on "single name" paper and you want some more. Suppose there's another fellow in the same fix with you. Well, you go to Stade & Co. and give them your notes for, say, four or six months at 6 per cent. They happen to know the other fellow and if it's agreeable to you pass your notes along to him, at the same time handing his notes for the same amounts over to you. And there you are, with two name paper, ready to look your bank in the eye or to magnify your bills receivable. Or if your bank doesn't like the looks of the paper Stade & Co. will steer you to one which will give you a liberal line on the notes. All this occurs for 2 1/2 per cent. commission on the first transaction and 1 1/2 for subsequent renewals, which figured on the basis of a four month note in the first transaction would bring the cost of the loan up to about 11 1/2 per cent. for a year.

Here is the way Stade & Co. explain their method in a formal letter to a man who was looking for money:

Outlining our method, wish to say that as a rule all prosperous business houses can use more money than they can borrow from their banks on their own paper. If they want more money than they have been limited to by their banks they have to offer their customers' notes or other good two name paper. The latter we are in a position to furnish.

We handle the notes of a large number of merchants and manufacturers highly rated in Dun & A. and Bradstreet's and all of most excellent standing and reputation. We have such notes on hand.

If you have use for any amount upward to \$100,000 we would be glad to give you notes, of highly rated business houses in your kindred lines, and in exchange for such notes we would accept your own paper.

You will in this manner acquire well rated two name paper at a rate of 2 1/2 per cent. no way differ from your regular customers' notes, and you will therefore have no difficulty in having same discounted with your banks just like your regular bills receivable. You will not have to resort to discount facilities we will be glad to refer you to a bank or institution which will give you a liberal line on the paper furnished by us.

Mr. Stade, when asked yesterday what his company's business was, said that they merely arranged loans between their customers and the banks. He was asked if he knew that they also negotiated the exchange of notes between their clients, but he denied that they ever kept a supply of their own paper on hand. He said that, for instance, walk along a bargain counter and pick out the paper he wanted.

The firm hasn't been in business very long. Mr. Stade had a seat on the New Consolidated Stock Exchange back in 1904 and was then a member of a brokerage firm. The firm made an assignment and was thrown into bankruptcy.

FIRST OF THE EASTER BONNETS.

That's Why Twice as Many Customs Men as Usual Met the Oceanic.

Nearly double the usual force of customs inspectors for a winter ship greeted the White Star liner Oceanic, in last evening from Southampton, Cherbourg and Queenstown. Deputy Surveyor John M. Bishop, who had charge of the sleuths, said this was due to the fact that the Oceanic was a first liner from a French port with a big assortment of new styles in Easter bonnets.

The milliners came with the bonnets, most of which were creations so delicate that a special appraisement of them was considered necessary, and fifty big boxes and trunks were taken to the Appraisers' Store. The milliners had declared that the goods were for export to the States. It took a long time to make examinations sufficient to show that the value of the finery could not be correctly estimated offhand. Besides, Mr. Bishop had a tip that some of the imported stuff might be secreted. A special guard was put on hand to make sure that the baggage directed to no particular place and carted off secretly by special expressmen.

The gangplank wearing a cloak trimmed with Persian lamb's wool and fur complained that she was too warm and asked a woman friend to get her a coat. The friend took the cloak. The friend took the garment, and putting it on a trunk that had been examined, sat on it. An inspector asked her to get up and hand over the cloak. The owner then acknowledged that she had forgotten to declare it and did so, paying the duty.

A dillinger accompanied by her husband and one of her pieces of baggage break as it slid down the baggage gangplank and exclaimed to him: "Don't that give you cold feet?" Nobody asked her whether she was referring to the duty she would have to pay or the prospect of having a ruined lot of stuff.

Hereafter, until the end of the spring season, men will be on hand to inspect liners coming from or touching at French ports. The customs authorities say they are going to see that importing milliners' goods is done in a proper manner. The last year, some of them getting into trouble.

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ARREST OF NATHAN VIDAVER

Continued from First Page.

Montgomery and Vidaver got up and went to a ladies' parlor. It was there that Montgomery handed over five \$100 bills to Vidaver. Vidaver who was not in a pleasant mood, the initials of Detective Fitzsimmons.

As soon as Vidaver had put the money in his pocket Fitzsimmons came in and told him he was under arrest.

"Will you give me that money or do you want me to search you here?" asked Fitzsimmons.

"I will give you the money," said Vidaver, and he passed it over. He said he had received the money as a retainer.

"Then why did you pass it over to me?" asked Fitzsimmons.

Montgomery left the room at once and went to the Criminal Courts Building. He was followed by the detectives and Vidaver who was not in a pleasant mood. Fitzsimmons took his prisoner into Mr. Jerome's office and Mr. Jerome said:

"Take him out, take his pedigree and keep him in the lock-up court."

Vidaver protested that he was not getting proper treatment, but he was led away. While he was waiting to be arraigned before Magistrate Herron it was said that the detectives had heard part of the conversation Montgomery had with Vidaver. Vidaver is alleged to have told Montgomery that unless he was hired the Attorney-General would object to the opening of the proposed bank and that if it was opened it would be closed up.

At other times Vidaver is said to have told Montgomery that he could prevent criticism of Montgomery coming from the Attorney-General's office. Vidaver, according to the District Attorney's informant, said that if the indictments against Montgomery were dismissed there would be no unfavorable comment from the Attorney-General's office.

Vidaver resented his delay at the Tombs court, saying that he was a very busy man. In the first place he represented the Independence League in the charges that had been preferred against William Leary, Superintendent of Elections, and he ought to be at the hearing. There were other important things awaiting his attention and he desired to be heard by the Assistant District Attorney Kresel came into court, and after a short affidavit had been made against Vidaver Mr. Kresel asked that the trial be fixed at 10 o'clock. There was a violent protest from Vidaver.

"In justice to myself I feel that I ought to explain this contemptible and outlandish proceeding against me," he said. "Moses H. Grossman, counsel for Montgomery, telephoned to me this morning asking me if I would meet Mr. Montgomery at the Astor Hotel. I said I would. Mr. Montgomery said he was going to open a bank in a few weeks and wanted Grossman to act as his attorney. There had been much criticism of Montgomery and he asked me if the indictments against him were quashed if I would use my influence with the Attorney-General's office to get the charges against him dropped. I told him I could do nothing about the newspapers and could promise him nothing in the Attorney-General's office. He said that everything I did for him could do for a client. I was to get \$300 and Grossman was to get \$300. Montgomery handed me the money in a mysterious way and the trial was fixed. After that the detectives arrested me."

Mr. Vidaver also said: "Montgomery in his desire to escape punishment under the indictment against him has made me a tool of his escape and Howard Gans, his attorney, not for the purpose of fastening any crime upon me, but for the purpose of discrediting Attorney-General Jackson. He has been a conspirator in the part of the District Attorney. There is no foundation for that charge against me, none at all. After what I have said I don't blame that a great deal of experience, to consent to my being paroled."

Grossman finally produced the \$5,000 cash for Vidaver's release. Then Grossman was subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury at once. It was so late in the afternoon that the Grand Jury adjourned and let him and his partner, Louis W. Yerkes, tell their story to Mr. Jerome. Mr. Kresel in the District Attorney's office. Mr. Jerome said afterward:

"I was informed that William R. Montgomery had been approached by Nathan Vidaver in such a way that the crime of attempted extortion was about to be committed and that certain testimony was available to show that the crime was committed. It was necessary to get the money and a meeting was arranged at Montgomery's house. I am not in possession of all the particulars, but Lieut. Berry, who had had great deal of experience, told me that a crime was about to be committed and I told him to make the arrest. There is nothing to show anything against the lawyers concerned."

Vidaver asked that he be paroled until this morning.

"There are no favors granted in a case like this," Mr. Kresel said. "Everybody is treated alike."

"Is that so?" sneered Vidaver. "George W. Yerkes was a dragger in here. He was sent for; he got an invitation. And I'll tell you why. There is one law for the rich around here and one for the others. I am a poor fellow. I am a conspirator in the part of the District Attorney. There is no foundation for that charge against me, none at all. After what I have said I don't blame that a great deal of experience, to consent to my being paroled."